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Mr. Charles A. H. Thomson
Staff Director
President's Communications Policy Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Thomson:

General Smith has asked me to reply to your letter inviting him to express his views on the problems involved in the development of a total national communications policy.

As you can well appreciate, the Central Intelligence Agency is vitally interested in this matter from both an intelligence and a procedural point of view and appreciates the opportunity to participate.

The Agency's comments on the various subjects relevant to the mission of the Communication's Policy Board are being prepared and will be forwarded in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Jackson
Deputy Director of
Central Intelligence

STAT

cc: 1-DCI

1-ADSO

COMMO - *my basic*

1-Central Records

*Note (Commo Cy withdrawn
& sent to Central Records)
Basic returned to C.S.C.*

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Dear Mr. Thompson:

This will refer to your letter of 16 October 1959 requesting that the P. C. S. D. be furnished with an expression of the views of this Agency on the subject of development of a broad national communications policy.

Since that date there has been made available to the Agency copies of P. C. S. D. Publication #1 and #2 wherein the problems confronting the Board have been categorized in outline form and have been reviewed by members of the Agency's staff.

In general it appears that the subjects noted in the outline of problems to be considered by the Board will, when fully developed, provide a sufficiently comprehensive basis for the formulation of a sound and realistic national communications policy and for the implementation thereof.

It is believed that the development of such a policy and the proper administration will depend to a great extent upon the devising of policies and procedures whereby the requirements in the three broad fields of national communications interest, namely: the political or international aspects; the economic, which is primarily domestic; and the military.

It is apparent that the major problems with which communications interests are confronted now can be traced directly to the expansion of the various communications services following WWII, with the consequent increased demand for space in an already overtaxed radio spectrum. Experience indicates that at the present time no one service can be further expanded except by curtailing the operations of another.

This increasing demand for assignments within the limits of the presently usable radio spectrum makes it imperative that periodic allocations be held to

the essential minimum. Further, the competition for channel and frequency assignments with the approach of a national emergency will become even keener.

Since the U.S. will be unable to acquire a greater share of the radio spectrum and since it is improbable that the present usable spectrum can be effectively expanded within the foreseeable future, it appears that the only alternative approach which will insure that existing communications resources are utilized to the best advantage from the standpoint of overall national interest, may be accomplished through the establishment of an agency, in the form of an independent Board.

It is believed that this agency should be so constituted that it could review requests for allocations of communications resources, initiated and/or received by executive departments, and to advise as to the possible effects thereof from the standpoint of overall national interest.

With properly defined terms of reference, it is believed that such a body could act to resolve much of the conflicting demands made upon the national communication resources without infringing upon the statutory or executive authority of any established agency. (IRAC - FCC - NSRB)

Such a body, if established within the near future, would be in a position to act in an advisory capacity on matters affecting national communications policy in time of peace but would also be able to accomplish the necessary groundwork which would enable it to function as

Dear Mr. Thomson:

As indicated in the President's letter to Mr. Stewart, the major problem confronting the Board is the development of a broad national policy which will operate to insure that available communications resources are utilized in the best overall national interests. It appears that the successful development of an effective policy will depend to a great extent upon the provision of a means for reconciling the requirements within three broad fields of national interest: diplomatic policy, national economy and national defense.

It is apparent that the major problems with which communications interests, both Governmental and non-Governmental, are confronted today stem directly from the growth and expansion of the various services since World War II, with the consequent increased demand for space in an already over-crowded radio spectrum. Experience indicates that the situation has reached a point at which no one service can be expanded except at the expense of another.

The increasing demand for assignments within the limits of the radio spectrum makes it imperative that future peacetime allocations be held to the essential minimum.

The competition for channel and frequency assignments is even keener during periods of national emergency. One means of eliminating such competition and to provide for equitable allocations, would be to establish an independent body to administer, in the name of the President, the Executive war powers in the field of communications. For planning purposes, such a body could exist sufficiently in advance of anticipated periods of national emergency without usurping or otherwise duplicating the functions of the FCC.

Such a body would at all times work in conjunction with the FCC on matters

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of overlapping functions and interests except in that, for the duration of the emergency period, the board's decisions would be paramount in matters affecting overseas communications.

This Agency's views on the remaining aspects of the communications policy problem necessarily are too restrictive in approach to be presented to the PCFB, and can be resolved by other action within the existing administrative framework of the contemplated (proposed) permanent board.

Sincerely yours,

W. Edzell Smith